

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A hollow golf club head having a face portion whose front face defines a club face for striking a ball, a crown portion, a sole portion, a side portion between the crown portion and sole portion, and a hosel portion, and comprising a metal component made of a metal material, and a resin component made of a fiber reinforced resin, wherein

said metal component comprises a face plate forming almost the entirety of the face portion, and a sole plate forming almost the entirety of the sole portion, the face plate having a width in the toe-heel direction that decreases in a direction toward a lower edge of the face plate, the sole plate having a width in the toe-heel direction that decreases in a direction toward a lower edge of the face plate, the face plate and the sole plate being connected to each other at the lower edge of the face plate, and said resin component comprises a crown plate forming the crown portion and a side plate forming the side portion, the resin component being provided with an opening for accommodating the face portion and the sole portion of the metal component and a flange formed along an edge of the opening and supporting only an edge portion of the metal component, whereby a back face of the face plate is exposed to the hollow of the head, and wherein

the sole plate is gradually increased in the thickness towards the rear end thereof, whereby a maximum thickness  $T_r$  at the rear end is in a range of from 2.0 to 8.0 mm, and a minimum thickness  $T_f$  in a front end zone of the sole plate is in a range of from 1.0 to 3.0 mm, and

said hosel portion includes a tubular part into which a club shaft is inserted, the tubular part being integrally formed with the metal component, extending upwardly from the sole plate while leaving a space between the face plate, and being connected to the metal component only at the sole plate, and  
the metal component is provided along a front end of the sole plate with a continuous or discontinuous slot.

2. (currently amended) A hollow golf club head having a face portion whose front face defines a club face for striking a ball, a crown portion, a sole portion, a side portion between the crown portion and sole portion, and a hosel portion, and comprising a metal component made of a metal material, and a resin component made of a fiber reinforced resin, wherein

said resin component comprises a crown plate forming at least a part of the crown portion,

said metal component comprises a face plate forming at least a part of the face portion, and a sole plate forming at least a part of the sole portion, the face plate having a width in the toe-heel direction that decreases in a direction toward a lower edge of the face plate, the sole plate having a width in the toe-heel direction that decreases in a direction toward a lower edge of the face plate, the face plate and the sole plate being connected to each other at the lower edge of the face plate, and wherein

said resin component is provided with an opening to expose a back face of the face plate to the hollow of the head, and

said hosel portion includes a tubular part into which a club shaft is inserted, the tubular part being integrally formed with the metal component, extending upwardly from the sole plate and being connected to the metal component only at the sole plate, and the metal component is provided along a front end of the sole plate with a continuous or discontinuous slot.

3. (currently amended) A hollow golf club head having a face portion whose front face defines a club face for striking a ball, a crown portion, a sole portion, a side portion between the crown portion and sole portion, and a hosel portion, and comprising a metal component made of a metal material, and a resin component made of a fiber reinforced resin, wherein

said resin component comprises a crown plate forming at least a part of the crown portion,

said metal component comprises a face plate forming at least a part of the face portion, and a sole plate forming at least a part of the sole portion, the face plate having a width in the toe-heel direction that decreases in a direction toward a lower edge of the face plate, the sole plate having a width in the toe-heel direction that decreases in a

direction toward a lower edge of the face plate, the face plate and the sole plate being connected to each other at the lower edge of the face plate, and wherein said resin component is provided with an opening to expose a back face of the face plate to the hollow of the head, said hosel portion includes a tubular part into which a club shaft is inserted, and the tubular part is formed separately from the metal component and the resin component, and the resin component is integrally provided with a tubular portion protruding into the hollow and forming a socket into which said tubular part of the hosel portion is inserted, and the metal component is provided along a front end of the sole plate with a continuous or discontinuous slot.

4. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 2, wherein the resin component further includes a side plate forming at least a part of the side portion.
5. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 2, wherein the sole plate is gradually increased in the thickness towards the rear end thereof.
6. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the sole plate is provided on the fringe thereof with a continuous or discontinuous rib.
7. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 2, wherein the sole plate is gradually increased in the thickness towards the rear end thereof, and the sole plate is provided on the fringe thereof with a continuous or discontinuous rib.
8. (withdrawn) The golf club head according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the metal component further includes a continuous or discontinuous turnout wall forming a part of the side portion.

9. (withdrawn) The golf club head according to claim 2 or 3, wherein  
the sole plate is gradually increased in the thickness towards the rear end thereof, and  
the metal component further includes a continuous or discontinuous turnout wall forming  
a part of the side portion.
10. (withdrawn) The golf club head according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the metal component  
further includes a frame bridging between the face plate and sole plate.
11. (canceled)
12. (currently amended) A hollow golf club head having a face portion whose front face defines  
a club face for striking a ball, a crown portion, a sole portion, a side portion between the crown  
portion and sole portion, and a hosel portion, and comprising a metal component made of a metal  
material, and a resin component made of a fiber reinforced resin, wherein  
said resin component comprises a crown plate forming at least a part of the crown  
portion,  
said metal component comprises a face plate forming at least a part of the face portion,  
and a sole plate forming at least a part of the sole portion, and wherein  
the metal component is provided along a front end of the sole plate with a single  
continuous or discontinuous slot or alternatively a plurality of slots in a single row.
13. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the depth of the  
center of gravity is in a range of from 40 to 55 mm.
14. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the sweet spot  
height is in a range of from 15 to 30 mm.
15. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 1 or 2, wherein  
the depth of the center of gravity is in a range of from 40 to 55 mm, and  
the sweet spot height is in a range of from 15 to 30 mm.

16. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 2, wherein the sole plate forms almost the entirety of the sole portion.
17. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 3 or 12, wherein the resin component further includes a side plate forming at least a part of the side portion.
18. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 3 or 12, wherein the sole plate is gradually increased in the thickness towards the rear end thereof.
19. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 3 or 12, wherein the sole plate is provided on the fringe thereof with a continuous or discontinuous rib.
20. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 3, wherein  
the sole plate is gradually increased in the thickness towards the rear end thereof, and  
the sole plate is provided on the fringe thereof with a continuous or discontinuous rib.
21. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 3 or 12, wherein the depth of the center of gravity is in a range of from 40 to 55 mm.
22. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 3 or 12, wherein the sweet spot height is in a range of from 15 to 30 mm.
23. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 3 or 12, wherein  
the depth of the center of gravity is in a range of from 40 to 55 mm, and  
the sweet spot height is in a range of from 15 to 30 mm.
24. (previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 3 or 12, wherein the sole plate forms almost the entirety of the sole portion.